

2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

The Genealogical Significance of World War I Draft Registration Cards

Zina Rhone

World War I draft registration cards provide a wealth of genealogy information including the registrant's name, date and place of birth, citizenship status, ethnicity, nearest living relatives, occupation, and the registrant's physical description.

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2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR



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Zina Rhone has been with the National Archives at Atlanta since March 2001. She is an archives technician for Research Services. Zina provides research reference assistance and orientations to genealogy research. She gives consultation on record groups related to genealogical and historical interests. She holds a Certification for Life Coaching and Personal Counseling and a B.A. degree in Religious Studies from Midwest Theology Institute, IL (2010).

The Genealogical significance of the WWI Draft Registration Cards

Speaker: Zina Rhone

October 29, 2014

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Workshop Goals...

- Give Brief Historical Perspective on the WWI Draft
- Explain Creation and Arrangement of the Cards
- 3. Discuss Genealogical Significance of the Cards

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HISTORICAL



Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg are assassinated June 28,1914.



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FIRST SHOTS FIRED



Gavrillo Princip

Princip is the Serbian nationalist who assassinates the Archduke and Duchess after the first assassin from his group fails.

- The first man throws a grenade at the open car
- It bounces off the back of the car, landing in the street just as the second car passes over it
- The explosion injures several people.
- The procession stops and heads for the hospital
- The road to the hospital places the Archduke and Duchess directly in the path of Princip.
- •Princip uses his pistol to fire two shots into the car.
- •One hits the Archduke in the neck and the other hits the Duchess in the abdomen.
- These are said to be the first shots fired in WWI

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Allies and Enemies

With the Archduke out of the way Austria-Hungary was able to secure a promise from Germany to aid in the war against Serbia and possibly Russia.

- Russian and Serbian Treaty
- French and Russian Treaty
- Germany invades Belgium and gains access to France
- Britain and France and declare war on Germany
- Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa enter the war as former colonies of Britain.
- Japan in treaty with Britain declares war on Germany
- Austria-Hungary declares war on Japan for declaring war on Germany

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WORLD WAR ONE Begins June 1914.....USA tries



to stay neutral

On May 1, 1915 the British Liner the Lusitania is torpedoed by a German Uboat. The Liner sinks, 1,198 people die, 128 of them Americans.

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The Draft Chronology....

- USA Declares War April 6, 1917.....
- Congress Enacts Selective Service Law, May 18, 1917.
- Three Registration days celebration events.
- •June 5, 1917...June 5, 1918...September 12,1918

......The <u>War Ends November 11, 1918.</u>

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SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT 18 May 1917

Process for drafting individuals for induction into the US Army

- 5 Aspects of the Act Under the Provost Marshal General
- 1. **REGISTRATION:** Taking of a military census. Cards were distributed by the Secretary of War based on 1910 census but allowed for changes in population since that census.
- 2. SELECTION: Process of national lottery to determine order of induction
- 3. CLASSIFICATION: Process for determination of exemptions and slackers
- 4. INDUCTION: Reporting for military duty at the office of the local board
- 5. ENTRAINMENT: Inductees delivered to mobilization camps for training at which time all responsibilities of the Provost marshal General and Selective Service System are completed.

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These are not military records

Less than 10% of the 24 million men who registered were actually drafted



Record Group 163
Records of the Selective Service System (World War I)

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After the War?

- Records transferred to the Adjutant General in Washington, D.C. November 27, 1918
- Later transferred to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Accessioned by National Archives: 1940's.
- In 1956, transferred to Federal Records Center, East Point, Georgia.
- 2002-2005: Re-boxing and Relocation projects completed in Morrow, Georgia.

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What do the cards look like?

3 different registration days3 different forms3 different sets of questions

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June 5, 1917. A-Card

All men ages 21 - 31.

Born between 6/6/1886 and 6/5/1896.

9,925,751 registered.

For	REGISTRATION CARD No.(47)
1	Name in full George Loves The War = 22
2	Home address (No.) (Street) Wakpala, S.Dak. (State)
3	Date of birth May (Date not Known) 1895 (Year)
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intertion (specify which)? Natural Born (Ward)
5	Where were Cherry Creek S. Dak. U.S.A. you bern! (Town) (Nation)
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? U.S.A.
7	What is your present trade, occupa usu, or office? Laborer
8	By whom employed? William Looking Back
	Where employed? Near Wakpala, S.D.
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? NO ONE
10	Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Indian
11	What military service have you had? Rank None; branch
-	years Nation or State
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? None
1	I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.
ding.	Surge Loves the Wan
Corner	(Signature or mark)

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June 5, 1918. B-Card

All men who had become 21 since previous registration.

Born between 6/6/1896 and 8/24/1897.

Supplemental registration August 24th for men who had become 21 since June 5th.

912,564 registered.

100	
Sea	rial No Registration No. 35
1	Name in fall Silas Hire Cloud Age, in 312 (Given name) (Family name) 21
2	Home address (No.) (Enter) Sittle Eagle & D
3	Date of Linth Courag (Day) (Year)
4	Where were Standing Gock and Gestle (City or town) (State) (Nation)
5	I am 2. A naturalized citizen. 3. An enten. 4. The Labord or intention. 5. A noncitizen or situal redian. (Strike out lines or words not applicable)
6	If met a cilizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject 7 and
7	Father's Standuig Tock of Tes. birthplace (City or town) (Plate or province) (Nation)
8	Name of employer Self Little Engle SIC employment (No.) (Street) (City or town) (State)
9	Name of nearest relative affect of the Cloud State of nearest relative (No.) (Street) (City or town). State or Notion)
10	Race White, Negro, Indian, or Oriental. (Strike out words not applicable)
1. 15.00.00	P. M. G. O. Form 1 (blue) REGISTRATION CARD. 1 affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true. (Signature or Mark of Registrant.) REGISTRATION CARD. 3—2739

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September 12, 1918.
C-Card
All men ages 18 - 21, and 31 - 47.

Born between 9/13/1872 and 9/12/1900. Catch all registration day.

13,395,706 registered.

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How are the cards arranged?

- The 3 types of cards are interfiled and arranged alphabetically by <u>State</u>.
- Then, alphabetically by <u>County</u> or in numerical order by local <u>Draft Board</u>.
- Next, alphabetically by <u>Surname</u> and then given name.
- Exceptions: Mass., Conn., Detroit, etc.

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THE SYSTEM

The Cards give an amazing Demographic Snapshot/More Than Just Face Value



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Citizenship/Nationality

- Natural Born
- Naturalized
- Allied Aliens
- Neutral Aliens
- Enemy Aliens: German, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Countries Controlled by Nations at War with US & Allies
- Prisons (Inmates/Patients & Indians (Citizen/Non-Citizen)

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1	2029 Roland Lloyd White (Given name) (Family name) Age, in: (2029 Roland Lloyd White
2	tleme address (No.) (Street) Rumford, Maind (State)
3	Date of birth April 10th 1895 (Month) (Day) (Year)
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared y intention (specify which)? An alien
5	Where were Hant's County N. S. Canada you bern? (Fown) (State) (Nation)
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? England
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Woodsman
8	By whom employed? Melvin White Where employed? Houghton, Maine
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you support (specify which)?
10	Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which) Caucasian
11	What military service have you had? Rank None ; branch ; branch
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?
Ti Mich Strate	I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

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	For	REGISTRATION CARD No. 9
1	1	Name in full Sermon alexander Haley Age, in yrs. (Circum namo) (Family namo) 25
1	2	Home address (No.) (Street) Lavanah (City) (State)
1	3	Date of birth Max & 1892 (Month) (Day) (Year)
	4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?
	5	Where were Pavertal Lem, usa (State) (Nation)
-	6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
	7	What is your present traile, occupation, or office? Shielder at J. College
	8	By Whom employed? Q & J. College 26
-		Where employed? Scienostoro n. c.
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10	0	Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Ofican
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41	2	Po you claim exemption
-	2	from draft (specify grounds)?
	1	I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true. Signature or mark)

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How do I find my relative's card?

What Information do I need to begin a search?

You Need to Know If the Man Was Born 1872-1900.

You Need to Know His Full Legal Name & Any Other Names He May Have Used.

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What <u>genealogy nuggets</u> can be found on the card?

That depends on the <u>card</u> and the <u>candor</u>!

- The cards help bridge the information gap caused by the loss of the 1890 census.
- They have proven valuable in locating foreign born ancestors.
- They assist in researching African American and Native American ancestors.

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Father & Son at same address

-	
Sei	rial No 52 Registration No. 113
1	Name in full Sheodore Wagnery Age, in year
2	Home 370 lochres Rol Myle, M. Gardines (City or Love) (State)
3	Date of hirth Alf. 27th (Day) (Year)
4	Where were you bern? (Nation) (Nation)
5	I am 1. A native of the United States, 2. A native of chicar, 3. A solice. 4. Lieuw declared my intention. 5. A continuor of an annihilan. (Strike out lines or words not applicable)
6	If not a citizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject?
7	Father's Born ousteamer under German flag
8	Name of Wallack Laundry Septem Place of 330 Oast 9 4 1146 etuployment (No.) (Street) (City or town) (Street)
9	Name of nearest relative & Theodole Wagner Sty Address of nearest relative 370 bypress well 196
10	(No.) (Street) (City owlewn). (Shite or Nation) Race—White, Nesse, Indian, or Griental. (Sprike cut words not applicable)
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Can't Find A Card?

- Registered with a different Draft Board.
- Variation in spelling of name./Assumed or Nick
- Incorrect information, (i.e., street address.)
- Person did not register.
- Person enlisted or already in the service.
- Improperly filed.
- Was not in the general population

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Improperly listed as an Indian but was actually an Enemy Alien

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Registered Under An Assumed or Nick Name

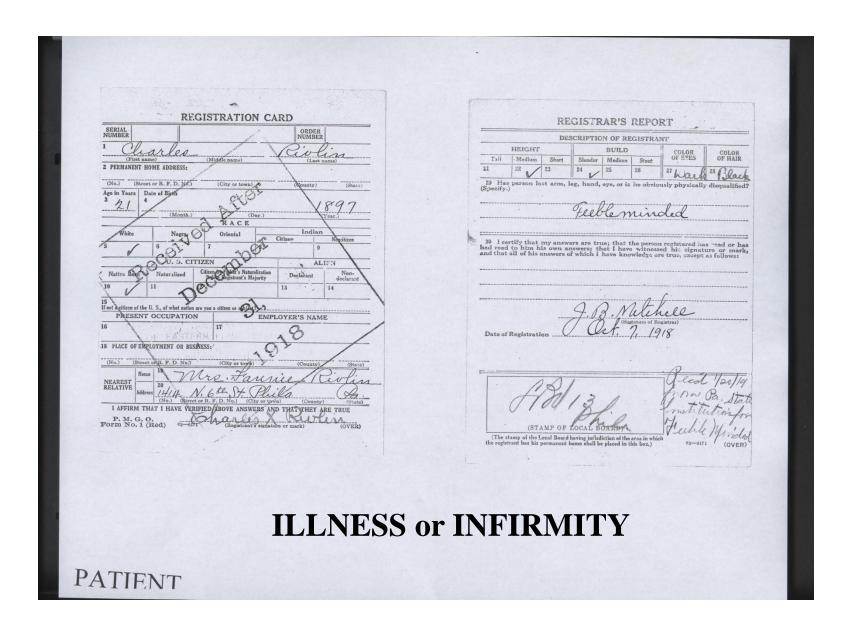
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The Born Naturalized Citizen by Falser's Haturalization Declarant Mondeclarant 11 12 12 13 14 Street of the U.S. of what nation are you william or rabject? 13 14 Street of the U.S. of what nation are you william or rabject? 14 15 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	Hative Born Naturalized Citizen by Failer's Naturalization Declarant declarant declarant 11 12 13 14 12 13 14 13 14 14 Citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you of filtren or religion to construct of Registration SEP 1.2 1918 15 Citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you of filtren or religion or religion to construct of Registration SEP 1.2 1918 16 Construction of Registration SEP 1.2 1918 EASTLE CONTENTIATIVE PLACE OF EMPLOYER'S NAME 17 CASTLE CONTENTIATIVE PLACE OF EMPLOYER'S NAME 18 Construction SEP 1.2 1918 EASTLE CONTENTIATIVE PLACE OF EMPLOYER'S NAME 19 Construction SEP 1.2 1918 EASTLE CONTENTIATIVE Address Construction of Registration SEP 1.2 1918 EASTLE CONTENTIATIVE Address Construction of Registration SEP 1.2 1918 (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD) (The stamp of the Local Board of which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in the construction of the parents of which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in the construction of the parents of which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in the construction of the place of the placed in the construction of the parents of the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the placed in the construction of the parents of the construction of the construction of the construction of the parents of the construction of the parents of the construction of the parents of the construction of the construction of the parents of the construction of the parents of the construction of the parents of th				
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7233		9255			

Removed From Citizenship By Incarceration

ORDER NOMBER NOM	REGISTRATION CARD	Copy REGISTRAR'S REPORT
Cities name) City of core from 1 City of core fro	MAL ORDER	HEIGHT BUILD COLOR COLOR
AMENT HOME ADDRESS: (Street or R. F. D. No.) (Country) (Country	Carl Faithful	Wedium Short Stender Meaning Stout
RACE Control Control	RMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Bly Clamatt Otel	29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify) Work wiseble
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S BOTH National Indicators Resident Registrant Resident Registration Resident Re	Moncehage	
Itinen of the U. S., of what aution are you a citizen or subject? RESENT OCCUPATION EMPLOYER'S NAME Date of Registration Occupation O	New Born Neisselford Before Registrant's Majority Dectarant declarant	La Die O Pin De 11
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M. G. O. (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which	(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (County) (State)	
	P.M. G.O. Carl Gatthful	
	0	
NO RECOGNIZED CITIZENSHIP	NO REC	COGNIZED CITIZENSHIP
NO RECOGNIZED CITIZENSHIP CLASSIFICATION		

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Notable Registrants

- Heroes
- Athletes
- Entertainers
- Politicians
- Artists
- Authors

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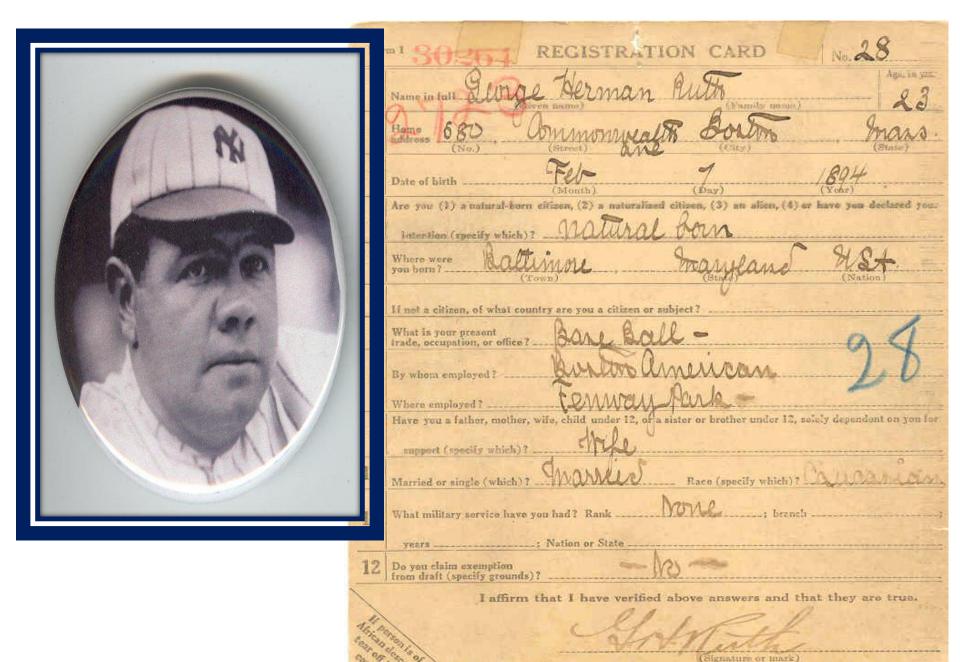
Exemption Claim

"Yes, Don't Want To Fight"



For	REGISTRATION CARD No. 27
1	Name in full alvin Car sum Gesta 29
2	Home address (No.) (Street) (City) (State)
3	Date of hirth Occ (Soar) (Yoar)
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? On alwest Some
5	Where were Pall Mall June US. Q. you born? (Town) (State) (Nation)
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Lubor our farm
8	By whom employed? All the Rele Male June
	Where employed? Have you a father, mather, wife, child under 12, or sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for
9	support (specify which)? Mother Broken Sister
10	Married or single (which)? Angle Race (specify which)? Clare
11	What military service have you had? Rank ? ; branch ; branch
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? 420, David Warf 75 Fight
/	laffirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.
Altrico.	alvin caliny york
Carner Carner	(Signature or mark)

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	134 1 1 1 1 1 1						
REGISTRATION CARD							
SERIAL 928		ORDER 4/77					
Liver	(Middle name)	Temshony.					
2. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:	10.17.00	1926					
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No)	(City or town)	(County) (State)					
Age in Years Date of Birth	-1	ID A G					
18 July	471.	1800					
(Month)	RACE	(Yells)					
White Negro	Optional	Indian					
	7 8	Citizen Noncitizen					
5 6 1	,						
U. S. CITI	ZEN	ALIEN					
Native Born Naturalized	Chizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant Non- declarant					
10 2 11	2	13 (44)					
15. If not a different of the U.S., of what nation as	re you a citizen or subject?						
PRESENT OCCUPATION	EMPI	OYER'S NAME					
16 Manie	· 11 p.T.	Lala.					
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF DUSIN	1.1+ DI	- B. J.					
No.1 Short at R. E. D. No.)	(City or town)	(Conaty (State)					
Name 19	an I That	Thong malher					
NEAREST RELATIVE Address /2 3 3	Plandido 17	M. 16 La					
(No.) Street	or R. F. D. No.) (City or tow	n) (County) (State)					
1 AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERI		D THAT THEY ARE TRUE					
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red)	(Regimean)'s signati	ire or mark (CVEM)					
Louis Corner	trong.						

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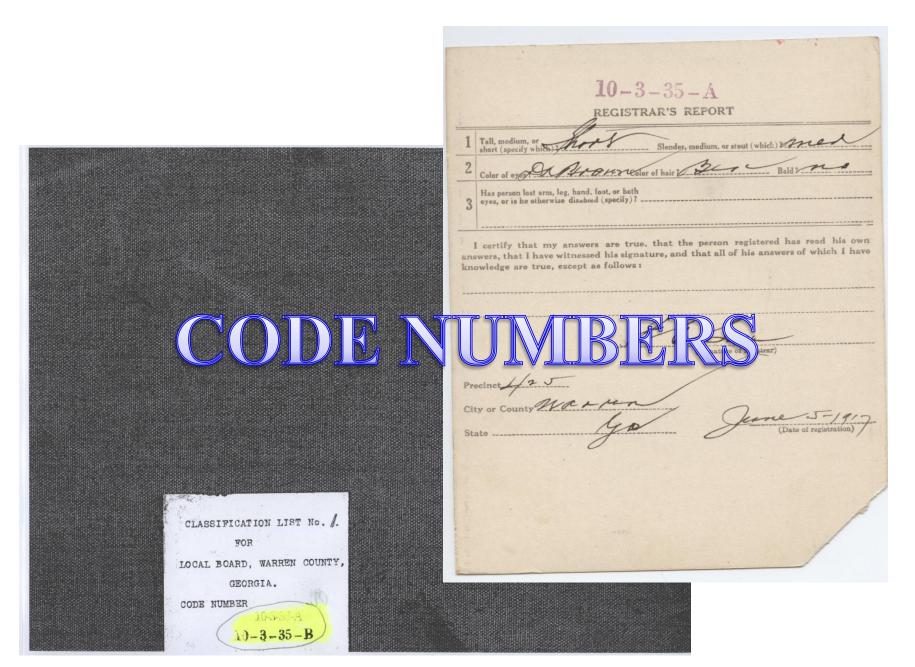
ADDITIONAL RELATED RECORDS

- Classification Lists Dockets: Maintained by local boards to show the process of classification physical examination, claims for exemption or discharge from the draft and the appeals process of each registrant. These also show the mobilization camp to which each individual was ordered to report.
- **PMGO Records**: Lists of men ordered to report to local boards for military duty. Delinquents and Deserters Forms.

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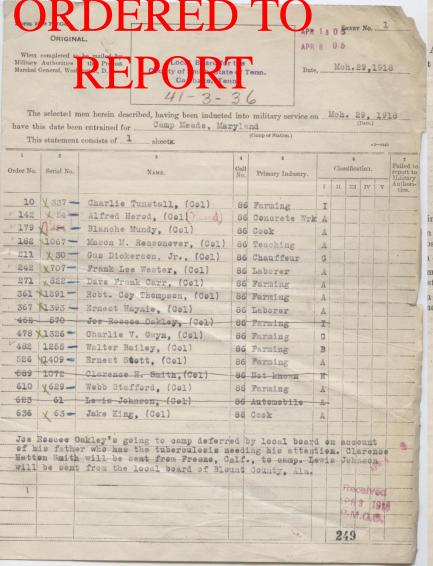
CLASSIFICATION

	1		-	3 Date of hirth	Jan/	13	- /1
LISTS				Date of birth	not T.		(4) or have you
50 atto Johnson	Co4.	117	12	5 Where were Marss	. /	go.	N
51 Eddie Heath	Соц	602	12-	6 If not a citizen, of what country	n) y are you a citizen or sub	njo/?	(N8)
1 52 Boisy D. Mathews	C 04.	390	- 1	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Farm	my	-7
53 Mathie Benson	In	75	12	8 By whom employed? Where employed?	arra	NEO	~
1 54 Jules W. Lockett	IW	772		9 Have you a father, mother, will support (specify which)	1	ster or brother under	12, solely depen
1 55 Boisin Lucas	C04.	721		Married or single (which		Race (specify whi	home
56 Johnnie Shielde	C04.	280	/2-	What military service have you years;	had? Rank	; b	eranch
57 John Berry	Con	972	-	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	4		lab a di-
58 Tom L. Battle	Co4.	983	12-	I affirm th	nat I have verified a	above answers ar	d that they
59 Ben R. Perdue	m	757	/2-		Same	(Signature of II	ark)
1 60 Willie B. Cosby	Cou.	966	12-15-1	7 12-20-17		X	12 2
61 Sam & H. Pitte	Cou	868	12-15-1	12 22 17		X	12 2
62 Mrs P. Laugham	W.	9	12-15-1	12/20-17		X	12 2
1 63 Henry J. Beec	m	332					
J 64 Claud Johnson	Coy.	379	12-15-1	1-2-18	X	X	12
65 Clifford Tankelin	G04.	542	12-15-1	12 22 '17		X = X	12 2
2 66 Warner allen	Cal	1911			-		



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LIST OF MEN



Place Camp Meade, N.d.

Date APR 2 1918

All men whose names appear on this statement have reported for military duty at this place t those opposite whose names there is entered in Column 7 an X

Signature JK. W. Flower

Rank 2 nel dient Jul n.

INSTRUCTIONS.

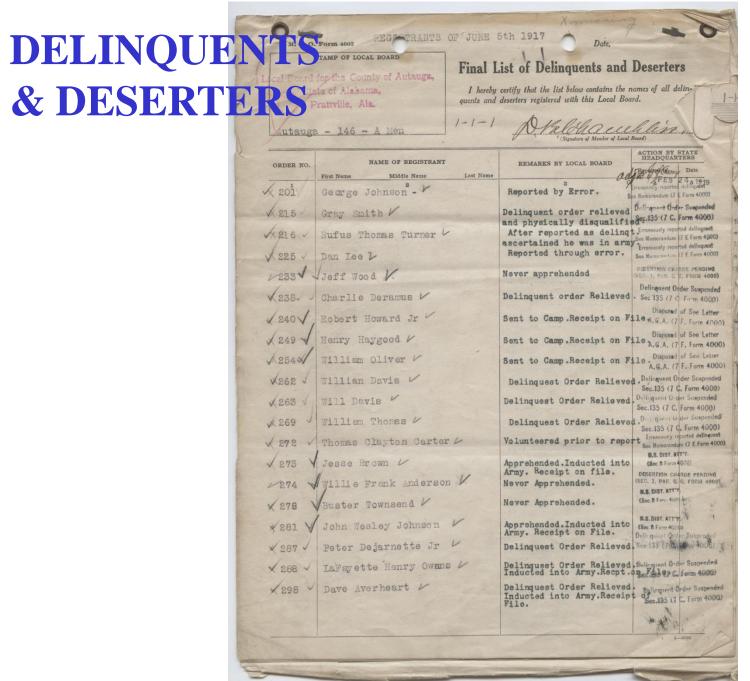
in columns 1, 2, and 3 are obvious.

n column 4 is the number of the call under which the man or men are to be inducted as announced out Marshal General.

column 5 is determined by consulting the answer to Question 5 on page 4 of the Questionnaire.

an 6 enter in the proper subcolumn the division letter of the registrant's final classification. (See cover stionnaire.)

a column 7 is to be made by the military authorities only and consists of an "X" in the column as of any man listed on the form who fails to report to the military authorities.



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What about Post-World War I Draft Records?

RG 147 Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards
From WWII and Forward
check with the on the Web at:

WWW.SSS.GOV

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Viewing WWI Cards: The Internet or In-person

- Color digital scans are available from Order On-line http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html
- Ancestry.com is available for free on NARA public access computers (good look-up source)

• Call (770) 968-2100 for Southeast Region visit

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Questions?



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2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

Presenter didn't get to your question?

You may email us at inquire@nara.gov